



# Egremont News

Issue 70

July, 2013

## Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in our community. It is printed on a bi-monthly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter.

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### Selectmen:

Would you utilize a BRTA B-bus if it came to Egremont to take you shopping and for appointments that you may have in Great Barrington and/or Pittsfield and the Towns between? BRTA (Berkshire Regional Transit Authority) has asked the Town to conduct an informal needs assessment. If you would utilize this service please contact Town Hall and let us know when, where and why. You may call Town Hall at 413-528-0182 or send a note via email to [tegrement@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:tegrement@egremont-ma.gov). Thank you.

See additional Selectmen's report at the end of the newsletter.

### Town Flag:

Egremont now has a Town Flag. You can see it flying at Town Hall. In August we should have Town Flags flying at the Village Green and both the Fire Stations. A huge Thank You to Susan Bachelder for designing the flag and coordinating this project. A flag is being sent to the State House to fly in the Great Hall, and a flag is being sent to Egremont, England to fly during their birthday party this coming August.



(Charles Flynn, Susan Bachelder, Mary Brazie, Bruce Turner. Photo courtesy of David Scribner of the Berkshire Record.)

### DOWNING TO PRESENT EGREMONT'S TOWN FLAG TO STATE HOUSE OFFICIALS:

PITTSFIELD – The afternoon of June 10th State Senator Benjamin B. Downing (D- Pittsfield) received the Town of Egremont's new, official flag from Susan P. Bachelder, secretary of the Egremont Historical Commission. On behalf of the community, Downing will bring the flag to Boston and present it to Bureau of State Office Buildings (BSB) officials, so it can be displayed in the Great Hall of the Massachusetts State House.

The Great Hall is the largest function room in the State House, decorated with flags representing the 351 Massachusetts cities and towns. While the practice of displaying municipal flags began two decades ago, the Massachusetts Art Commission is now working hard to complete the collection by the 20th anniversary of the program -- June 2014. This past March, at the request of the Commission's Art Collection Manager, Downing contacted local officials in the last dozen communities of his district without a flag and encouraged them to submit one.

According to Bachelder, Egremont chose to design a flag that the Town could continue to use, rather than a single event banner to simply hang at the State House. Therefore, Egremont's flag follows the protocols for flag design and is composed of three colors and a minimum number of design elements.

While designing the flag, Bachelder also researched the history behind Egremont's seal, which was based on the shield of Lord Egremont, after whom the community is named. Egremont's flag design uses an updated shield, as well as two chevrons, representing North and South Egremont, which are joined by a smaller chevron, representing Baldwin Hill. The flag's colors are a variation of the American flag, with the upper blue holding company with the blue of the original Egremont shield. The lower blue is Legion Blue, the red is held in the seal, and the white mountains

of western Massachusetts are represented by the chevrons.

In the near future Downing and State Representative Wm. "Smitty" Pignatelli (D- Lenox) will officially present Egremont's flag to BSB Superintendent Tammy Kraus at the State House. (See below.)



*(Representative "Smitty" Pignatelli, Senator Ben Downing, and BSB Superintendent Tammy Kraus)*

BOSTON – This morning (June 18) State Senator Benjamin B. Downing (D- Pittsfield) and State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli (D- Lenox) presented the Town of Egremont's new, official flag to Bureau of State Office Buildings (BSB) Superintendent Tammy Kraus at the Massachusetts State House.

Once properly cataloged by BSB, Egremont's flag will be added to the impressive display of municipal flags in the Great Hall to be admired by all State House visitors.

#### ECO-TIP

Reuse: Take **small plastic bags** to the Egremont Dog Park (on Baldwin Hill North) to be reused as poop collectors

#### Welcome new Town Officials:

Welcome to the Board of Assessors Don Torrico. Elizabeth Holland opted not to run for re-election after three years on the Board. The Town thanks her for her years of service as an Assessor.

Welcome to the Planning Board Don Pulver. Eileen Vining opted not to run for re-election after 27 years on the Planning Board. The Town thanks Eileen for her many years of service. See the Planning Board article for a special tribute to Eileen.

Welcome to the Library Trustees Francine Groener. Susan Turner opted not to run for re-election

after six years as a Trustee. She is thanked for her years of service.

We welcome Tom Berkel and Ed "Rocky" Scarbro to the Finance committee, who were recently appointed to fill two vacancies on the Committee. Laura Allen and Michael Bandzierz were reappointed to the Finance Committee.

#### Agricultural Commission:

The cold wet spring provided great conditions for a perfect maple syrup season at Turner Farms Maple Syrup in South Egremont. Paul and Carla Turner are celebrating their 25th year of making maple syrup in Egremont, and 2013 was their best sugaring year to date. They welcome visitors to the farm 7am to 7 pm 7 days a week. If you have never stopped into the sugar shack stop in and wish them a happy 25th.

As the summer is here, you may see more animals like horses, cows or sheep on the roads. Massachusetts State law requires that when approaching a cow or horse on a roadway the operator of a vehicle must bring their vehicle to a stop and wait for direction from the person in charge of said animal. For more information go to <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/> Let's all stay safe this summer!

In addition, don't forget to visit your nearby farmers' markets. The Sheffield Market runs every Friday 3-6 and the Great Barrington Farmers' Market is every Saturday morning 9-1 at the old Train Station behind town hall.

#### Treasurer\Collector:

**FY 2014 - Real Estate & Personal Property Tax bills were mailed June 27, 2013 and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter payments are due no later than August 1, 2013. NOTICE: FY2013 tax bills that were not paid by June 30, 2013 may be subject to tax lien.**

**Motor Vehicle Excise** - Interim bills are being mailed periodically as the bill information is received from the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Interim bills are generated when a new or used vehicle is purchased and/or registered during the present or prior year. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you have disposed of a vehicle, please remember, it is the taxpayer's responsibility to contact the assessors' office and file for an abatement. **Do not ignore** the tax bill as it stays on the books until it is paid or abated. Again, we only have the information provided to us from the Registry of Motor Vehicles which comes from the vehicle owner. If you have received a notice from the Deputy Collector please call

his office to clear your obligation. Nonpayment could result in your becoming unable to renew your registration.

Office hours - Tax Collector 7-3 Monday through Friday.

### ECO-TIP

Leave plastic **flowerpots** at the Transfer Station. The Green Committee has partnered with Wards to get them recycled.

### Historical Commission:

We have always known there are a few more Egremonts. Several years ago, Lord Egremont came to visit us. One of the other Egremonts in England has been in touch with us about a big party they are throwing for themselves on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013. It is located more or less across the Mersey River from Liverpool and we are all invited to ferry across and take a walk along their historic promenade. We will be sending a Town Flag to help them celebrate - please contact the historical commission for more information if you are thinking of going.

CONGRATULATIONS EGREMONT! The Egremont Historical Commission would like to congratulate the Town and thank it for its support of our historic buildings at Town Meeting. We have been awarded two MPPF grants for the first phase of restoring and installing universal access in our School and Library buildings. Both buildings are in the heart of one of our National Register Historic Districts and this will do much to preserve the character of our town.

On July 21<sup>st</sup>, the EHC will supply two historic flags to the festivities organized by Friends of Egremont History. The 1865 Basket Picnic will be an adventure in understanding the role that our citizens played in the Civil War and is part of a state wide effort to promote awareness of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Come spend a delightful Sunday from noon to 4pm meeting re-enactors and the "ghosts" of our own town, with Tom Gage as Col Curtis overseeing the festivities.

On July 6<sup>th</sup>. The Egremont Historical Commission extends a warm welcome to its new librarian, Lesliann Frucht and invites the Town to join us at the Library where the Archives will also be open to celebrate her arrival. As a special treat, a copy of the new book, "The Archimedes Palimpsest" a true story of lost mathematical writings rediscovered through the use of cutting edge NASA science at the Walter's Art Museum in Baltimore will be on display in the Archives. While

it has nothing to do with Egremont, it has a good deal to show how the old and new can work together for breakthrough history. Come take a look. Lastly, the Historic Preservation draft from the BRPC's Long Range Plan for Berkshire County, Sustainable Berkshires, was reviewed at an all day workshop attended by Susan Bachelder, secretary of our Commission. Copies are available for review at the Archives, or Town Hall.

### Planning Board:

The Planning Board extends its thanks to Eileen Vining, who chose not to stand for re-election this year and therefore completed her final term on the Planning Board in May, capping a career as a town volunteer that spanned three decades. Early in her tenure, Eileen was instrumental in zoning that preserved Jug End Reservation from development in the 1980s. Since then, she has played a key role in work that has ranged from town master planning to, most recently, the wireless telecommunications bylaw. She has served on the Planning Board as Chair and as Clerk, maintaining meticulous records, drawing on her legal training, providing the voice of experience, and working tirelessly. The remaining members unanimously adopted the following resolution at the May 13 meeting: *"Whereas she has served on the Town of Egremont Planning Board for almost 27 years, since 1986; and whereas she has participated actively and sagely in the development of zoning and countless bylaws; and whereas she has given generously of her time, has studiously pursued the highest standards of regulation, has served her Town with dedication and care, and has extended good humor and good will to colleagues and citizens alike, we hereby commend and extend our deepest gratitude to Eileen Vining on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May 2013."*

At the May 28 meeting, the Planning Board welcomed its newest member, Don Pulfer. Don has been interested in zoning, especially in rural communities, for many years both professionally, as an architect, and personally, as a citizen. He brings experience to the task, having served on the Planning Board and Board of Appeals in Alford and as chair of each. Don also served as Alford's representative to the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission. A resident of the area for 28 years and a former Egremont resident, he has recently returned to the town and purchased property in North Egremont.

The Temporary Moratorium on medical marijuana treatment centers, proposed by the Planning

Board, passed as an article at town meeting. The moratorium gives the town time to wait and see the implications of the complex and extensive state legislation and accompanying Department of Public Health regulations, and any legal challenges. The Planning Board clerk has submitted all necessary information to the Town Clerk for submission to the Attorney General's office.

### **Board of Health:**

The heavy rains of late spring bring up two important issues Egremont residents should be aware of.

### **Swimming**

After heavy rains large amounts of bacteria flow downstream into watersheds which could adversely affect water quality in lakes, streams, rivers and ponds. The bacteriam naturally decreases with time but it is important to be aware of possible spikes of contaminants. Young children should avoid swimming at these times as should those who suffer from a compromised immune system.

Water quality is tested weekly at the private beach at Prospect Lake Park by the campground owner. If the bacteria count gets above a certain level the Board of Health is notified and signs will be put up at lake access points prohibiting swimming until the bacteria level recedes. Popular swimming spots along the Green River are not tested and the public should be aware that they are swimming at their own risk.

### **Mosquitoes**

The heavy rains also mean that we can expect larger numbers of mosquitoes than usual this summer. Mosquitoes are more than annoying pests. In years past they have been carriers for West Nile Disease (WND) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) both serious illnesses.

Protect yourself by avoiding going out during their busy time of day which is dusk and evening. Wear clothing that covers your skin (long sleeves, long pants, a hood, etc.) and apply bug spray to exposed skin. As most mosquito activity occurs where they hatch you can reduce their numbers by removing standing water from your property. Check your gutters for water that isn't draining completely and turn over or remove objects that hold water.

The Board of Health wishes you, your family and guests a joyful summer. With the proper precautions you can have a healthy one too.

### **ECO-TIP**

There's a new bin at the Transfer Station for bags that held water-softening salts or wood stove pellets. (Bags that contained mulch are NOT accepted.)

### **E 9-1-1 House numbers:**

Below is the text of Egremont Bylaw 14 which requires all dwellings in Egremont to clearly post the 9-1-1 house number assigned to it.

A. Numbers for each dwelling, each apartment, and each business, and other buildings in the Town of Egremont shall be those assigned in accordance with the street number survey by the Egremont E 9-1-1 Coordinator.

B. It shall be the responsibility of each property owner in the town to obtain and install the number or numbers assigned to the affected structure or structures within ten (10) working days of the assignment.

C. The owner of the property seeking a building permit for a new building or structure shall apply for and receive such a building number designation or numbers from the 9-1-1 Coordinator as a part of the application to the Building Inspector for a building permit and/or as a part of the application to the Road Superintendent for a driveway permit, and no permit shall be issued without designation of such building number. The numbers must be installed on the property before any construction or construction preparation begins.

D. Reflective numbers shall be placed at the main entrance to the structure; that is, on the road on a suitable support so that they are clearly visible from the street. The size of the numbers to be no less than 3 inches high, and placed no higher than six (6) feet above ground level, and no lower than 3 feet above ground level, and for structures begun after July 1, 2002 no lower than 42 (forty-two) inches above ground level.

E. This Bylaw shall be enforced by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Egremont, either directly or through an enforcer to be appointed by them. Failure to comply with this Bylaw shall subject the offending property owner to a fine not exceeding ten dollars (\$10.00) per day after proper notification of failure to such owner. All residents shall have 3 months from the date of inception of this bylaw to comply.

**Please post your number in compliance with this bylaw to avoid any fines and to expedite our emergency services ability to help you.**

### Council on Aging:

The Egremont Council on Aging combined two of its goals, getting seniors to meet and socialize with one another, and encouraging seniors to "get moving" at a dessert social on Wednesday, July 19 from 1-3pm. The event, entitled "Tea, Talk and Walk" was held in the newly opened Egremont Village Inn. We are very grateful to Gigi Teeley, her family, and the staff for putting on such a wonderful event for about 60 Egremont seniors. They have done a beautiful job of renovating the Inn, the sampling of food that we had was first rate, and they know how to create an atmosphere that says "welcome". While they are already accepting room reservations, stay tuned for announcements about the food and bar opening. This promises to be a very special place.

We had a full program. Polly Mann was present to talk about the Claire Teague Senior Center, Kevin, one of the drivers for Southern Berkshire Elder Transit, brought the Van so we could learn more about the service, and he was backed up by Hilda Banks Shapiro who confirmed the value of their service. They operate out of the Claire Teague Senior Center and can be reached at 413 528 4773. Sandra Martin, our town's Health Agent, introduced Barbara Choon, RN, MSN, who is on the Public Health Nursing Staff of the Berkshire Public Health Alliance and will be serving in South County. Our keynote speaker was Susan Bachelder who gave us some background on life in Egremont in the 18th and 19th Centuries, with an emphasis on what she called South Egremont's three legged stool: the Congregational Church, the School Building, and the Academy Building, now our library. Susan also introduced the walking part of our event by describing the guide put out by the Egremont Historical Commission, "The Historic Beauty of South Egremont". Some used that guide to explore the area on their own. In addition Juliette Haas from our Board of Health led a group that was labeled "slightly more vigorous". Finally we also learned from Jen Brown about the opening of the hiking trails in French Park.

As has become our custom, our entire Council on Aging worked together to create this event; Dorothy Flynn, Georgette Kinney, Carolyn Palmucci, Penny Pitts, and Rachel Shaw.



*Dottie Flynn, Rachel Shaw, Bobbie Nussbaum and Juliette Haas take part in the Council on Aging health walk.*

### Sustainability Coordinator:

I am extremely pleased to report that thanks to the efforts of many of you there has been a considerable reduction in our annual trash production. We have gone from the staggering sum of 480 tons of trash per year to 430. That 50 ton difference means of savings of \$5500 in hauling and disposal fees to the town.

While this downward trend shows great progress a way to cut that number even more is to get everyone in town to compost their kitchen waste. Kitchen waste and other organic materials represent as much as 40% of a normal bag of trash. Many folks in town have a backyard compost bin. Composting is effortless once you get in the habit of keeping a little bucket next to your kitchen sink and placing your coffee grounds, egg shells, vegetable peelings and the like in it and then taking it to your compost bin when the bucket is full. I've been doing it for years and really enjoy how good it feels to know something so easy is so environmentally beneficial. Plus I get free compost for my garden.

But some folks are reluctant to maintain their own backyard bin or perhaps don't have the need for the finished compost. If you are in that category ***do I have a project for you!*** Starting very soon there will be a community compost bin at the transfer station open to all Egremont residents and businesses.

Here's how the program works...come to town hall and pick up a free compost bucket. It will come with an instruction sheet on what objects to place inside. Position it on your kitchen counter and when you're preparing a meal just put in the food scraps you would normally put in the trash. Then on a regular trip to the transfer station bring your bucket with you and tip the contents into the community compost bin. That's it.



Easy breezy!

Why should you take the time to participate in this program? If you are interested in saving the town (and you) money, that's one very good reason. If you want to do your part in reducing the town's carbon footprint and harmful greenhouse gas emissions those are other very good reasons. Whatever your reason you will be actively working towards positive change in our fragile environment.

Please give me, Juliette Haas, a call at 528-0182 x 22 with questions you might have about this new town service. Also, I'd love to hear your comments. In the meantime I'll be manning the new community compost bin at the transfer station from time to time so stop by and say hi.

Have a great summer.

### **Your Egremont Free Library:**

As you walk into the historic building on 1 Buttonball Lane in Egremont, you enter a charming, warm and welcoming library – your library. Many of you know the gem that is the Egremont Free Library. And many of you haven't ventured in for a while. We invite you to come to check out your library either at the July 6 open house from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. or during regular library hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Earlier this year, the Egremont Free Library trustees with the help of Rosemary Carpenite and Carolyn Palmucci, spruced up the library interior with a fresh coat of paint, and reorganized the collection of books, DVDs, books on tape, CDs, etc. They also acquired two new computers with up-to-date software and 20-inch wide-screen monitors. Our high speed internet access is reliable and available to patrons at any time. We now have a picnic table for those who want some fresh air and quiet time to read, relax or surf the internet.

Sadly, our long-time, wonderful librarian Sally Caldwell passed away in December. Sally's years of dedication and love of the library are evident in the collection she developed and the quality of the library. Earlier this year, Rosemary Carpenite filled in as the interim Library Director. We thank Rosemary for ensuring library services continued during the search for a permanent replacement. Lesliann Furcht, a long-time resident of Mt. Washington and Great Barrington native, was hired as Library Director this past May.

"I've enjoyed meeting the regular patrons of the library," Lesliann says. "There is a wide range of tastes that we accommodate at the Egremont Free Library. I encourage residents to become regular patrons, request books they would like to read or make suggestions. If the book selection you desire isn't in our collection, I can easily order it through the inter-library loan program. We have access to fiction and nonfiction books, DVDs, CDs, etc. from libraries across the state. The Egremont Free Library is part of one of the best library systems in the country, the Massachusetts Library System. I also regularly order best-selling and award-winning books each month for our own library collection."

Lesliann reads to the South Egremont School children once a week during the school year when weather permits. "There is a wonderful collection of children's literature and picture books," she says. "We also have a good collection of young adult novels. I encourage students who have summer reading assignments to come to the Egremont Free Library to explore our young adult novel collection." Lesliann also hopes that parents or grandparents with toddlers or young readers come to the library to read aloud or spend time doing puzzles or playing board games. There are plenty of picture books to choose from as well.

We would like to thank Susan Turner, a long-time library trustee, whose leadership, dedication and support were integral to the continued success of our library. We congratulate Francine Groener, who was recently elected as our new library trustee, and joins library trustees Peggy Muskrat and Keila Sheldon.

The library is a wonderful place to spend some of your time. Whether it's finding the right, satisfying novel, reading the latest historical non-fiction book, finding a recipe in one of our cookbooks, reading the latest edition of your favorite magazine, downloading books to your device, playing games, doing puzzles, surfing the internet, or visiting with fellow Egremonters, the Egremont Free Library is your library. We look forward to seeing and welcoming you.

### **Board of Assessors:**

The Board welcomes our newest member, Donald Torrico. We look forward to working with him.

### **Exemption Applications:**

Senior, Veteran, etc. exemption applications have been mailed. These forms are due back in the Assessors' Office by (or before!) October 1.

### **Chapter Land Applications:**

In July, property owners who have agricultural or recreational land will receive the annual application for Chapter 61 designation, State Tax Form CL1. This form should be submitted to the Assessors' Office annually. The form for Fiscal Year 2015 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015) is due back to the Assessors by (or before!) October 1, 2013. If you do not receive a form from the Assessors' Office and you have land in Egremont that you believe qualifies, please contact the Assessors' Office.

If you have any questions please contact the Assessors' office at 528-0182, Ext. 14. Our Town Hall office hours are Tuesday and Thursday (9:00 AM to 12:00.) Or email us at [assessors@egremont-ma.gov](mailto:assessors@egremont-ma.gov).

### **State Environmental Officials Warn Residents About the Discovery of Didymo in Green River:**

BOSTON – Thursday, May 30, 2013 –

Officials from the Massachusetts Departments of Fish and Game (DFG) and Conservation and Recreation (DCR) are informing residents that the presence of the *Didymosphenia geminata* (didymo) was recently detected in the Green River in the Berkshire County towns of Alford and Egremont. This finding is the first confirmed occurrence of didymo in Massachusetts.

"The Department of Fish and Game and its Division of Fisheries and Wildlife are trying to inform the public as quickly as possible about the recent discovery of didymo in Massachusetts, and provide best available information about how to help prevent the spread of this freshwater algae," said DFG Commissioner Mary Griffin.

Didymo is a freshwater algae that occurs in North America and generally favors cold, clear, nutrient-poor waters with a neutral or slightly basic pH. Blooms can produce dense covering on rocky substrate and eventually result in long, unsightly stalks. Didymo may appear gray, brown or white and have texture comparably to wet wool or cotton balls. Extensive didymo blooms can cover river substrate, and may temporarily impact aquatic habitat, specifically cover stream bottoms, and make swimming, boating and fishing difficult and/or less desirable.

Samples were collected and a preliminary identification was made by DFG's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) Western District biologists. On Thursday May 23, 2013, the sample identification was confirmed by Vermont

environmental officials, who have extensive experience with didymo.

MassWildlife staff will post signs alerting the public to the presence of didymo in the Green River and how to clean recreational equipment and gear after each use. Although there is no known method for eliminating didymo from a waterway or controlling a bloom, all recreational boat users should always thoroughly wash their equipment, clothing, waders and boats in hot, soapy water. Boats, equipment and other non-absorbent materials should be scrubbed. Soft, absorbent materials should soak in hot, soapy water for a minimum of 30 minutes. This is particularly important with felt-sole waders or other slow drying material such as sneakers, towels, etc.

In addition, DFG and DCR will work with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to provide information to the public about how to reduce the spread of didymo and other aquatic invasive species.

"Didymo is the latest in a series of nuisance aquatic species to impact the Commonwealth's lakes, ponds and streams," said DCR Commissioner Edward Lambert. "We encourage the public to clean all boats and equipment before moving from one water body to another."

DFG staff has developed best management practices and disinfection procedures for field activities and fish stocking to minimize the spread of both aquatic invasive species, like didymo and zebra mussels, and pathogens in Massachusetts' waters. DFG staff will also continue to monitor national and international research pertaining to the biology and management of didymo.

Didymo is visually undetectable without a microscope, unless it has established "colonies" on rock surfaces or is in a "bloom" phase. In addition to several western states, didymo has been found in Connecticut, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Virginia. In New England, there have been no reported changes to fishery communities resulting from the sporadic blooms.

It is unknown if didymo was always present in the waters where blooms have occurred or is a recent introduction.

In North America, the earliest recorded occurrence of didymo is from Vancouver Island in the late 1800s. One hundred years later, didymo formed nuisance blooms on the island's Heber River and now blooms have appeared in two-thirds of Vancouver Island's rivers. Didymo blooms, and the frequency of blooms, may vary widely between watersheds because

of differing environmental conditions.

DFG is responsible for promoting the conservation and enjoyment of the Commonwealth's natural resources. DFG carries out this mission through land protection and wildlife habitat management, management of inland and marine fish and wildlife species and ecological restoration of fresh water, salt water and terrestrial habitats. DFG promotes enjoyment of the Massachusetts environment through outdoor skills workshops, fishing festivals and other educational programs, and by enhancing access to the Commonwealth's rivers, lakes and coastal waters.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).

#### **WiredWest and Broadband connectivity update:**

Many things have been happening to bring high speed broadband to Egremont. As many will know, the Mass. Broadband Institute is in the final phase of connecting Community Anchor Institutions like town halls, police depts., fire depts. and libraries to the new fiber optic cables they have been installing for the past year. The Middle-Mile network is expected to be lit up in the late summer or early fall.

WiredWest was created to find funding and build the fiber optic network to the residents of the 42 member towns because MBI did not have adequate funding to build the complete network to everyone's home. In part because of WiredWest's efforts and the work of many volunteers, Governor Patrick has decided to put \$40 million in his 2014 budget to facilitate the building of the 'Last-Mile network'. The plan at this time is (after Governor Patrick's budget passes), for MBI to borrow money from the Rural Utility Service, a dept. of the Department of Agriculture, which will loan up to 80% of the funds needed. MBI is expected to require towns to invest money as well to demonstrate commitment. The levels of various funding sources including the town's

contributions have not as yet been defined. The Middle-Mile network cost in the neighborhood of \$90 million and the Last-Mile segment is expected to cost in excess of \$110 million.

WiredWest is committed to working with MBI to accomplish the goal of bringing Broadband to everyone's home. Currently it is reasonable to expect the network to be built in 1-1/2 to 2 years.

#### **WiredWest and MBI focusing on broadband connections for town residents:**

As Massbroadband123 nears completion, WiredWest congratulates the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) on a job well done building this "middle mile" fiber network. We encourage town Community Anchor Institutions to take advantage of the broadband access now available to them.

WiredWest remains committed to bringing fairly-priced broadband services to all the people and businesses in our towns through a "last mile" fiber network. We have completed extensive groundwork essential for achieving that goal.

Nearly 12,000 people have now signed our "Support Cards" to say that they are very interested in getting high-speed Internet access and other broadband services from WiredWest. If you have not yet done so, please join your friends and neighbors and sign up now on our website at [www.wiredwest.net](http://www.wiredwest.net). Your support is vital to making the last mile a reality.

Governor Patrick has proposed a bond bill which includes \$40 million toward the cost of building the last mile. WiredWest supports that bill and MBI's leadership of the last mile project. We are in the process of determining how best to leverage the strength of our 42-town cooperative to complement MBI's efforts, and we look forward to working with MBI in "bringing broadband home" to all our citizens.

#### **ECO-TIP**

A recycling logo on an item doesn't mean it is recyclable. (Examples: Styrofoam meat trays, plastic cups.) Go to <http://www.springfieldmrf.org/> for a complete "yes" and "no" list of what we can recycle.



**Meet Egremont Civil War Soldiers  
at an**

**1865 BASKET PICNIC**

**Sunday, July 21, 2013**

**(rain date July 28)**

**Egremont Village Inn**  
(formerly "Weathervane")

12-3pm

(the "drama" begins at 12:30 sharp!)

**Free! (Bring a picnic lunch.)**

**Save that date!**

More info, old recipes and local civil war history can be found on the on the Town's website:

[www.egremont-ma.gov](http://www.egremont-ma.gov).

Event presented by the Friends of Egremont History.

**South Egremont Congregational Church:**

The First Congregational Church of South Egremont wishes to thank all those who have contributed to our fundraising effort. However, for those who may not have received a letter or who would like to give to the fund, you may send your donation to First Congregational Church of South Egremont, P.O. Box 55, South Egremont MA 01258. This is an ongoing fundraiser, so you may send donations at any time.

The Church will also be having a public Chicken Parmesan Dinner, August 17 from 5 to 7p.m. Featured will be chicken Parmesan, pasta, salad, rolls/bread dessert, beverage. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Under age 5 are free.

**Friends of Prospect Lake:**

**The Lake**

Unfortunately the swimming season began with some disturbing news about the water quality of the lake. This was discovered because the campground is required to test the water on a weekly basis. The results of the May 21 tests indicated that the e coli level was over the limit for swimming. Our Board of Health director, Juliette Haas, promptly shared the results with us and had signs informing the public about the water quality placed in strategic places around the lake. The question on everyone's mind was, what caused this change--the beavers, the geese, the mountain runoff, all of these? We had not experienced this situation in over twenty years. Jim Palmitier, the owner of the campground, acted promptly by having three beavers removed from the lake. We began to test various areas around the lake

because we found out that there could be different results depending on the location where the water sample was obtained. We got water samples from two culverts that discharge water into the lake and from several locations around the lake including the canal and the area around the beaver dam. We did find different e coli levels, but only one of them was over the swimming safety limit. Since these results were obtained, this count has gone down dramatically. As the testing continued over several weeks the e coli count has been going down steadily. The last testing that we did in the middle of the lake itself showed a very low e coli count of 15 compared to the cut off which is 235 for swimming safety.

The lake was treated with Diquat to control the curlyleaf pondweed on May 27. The curlyleaf is gone. The treatments have been very effective with the milfoil which is almost completely eradicated. The curlyleaf pondweed is more difficult to treat because the seeds remain in the sediment for a long period of time. Although the treatments are always done before the curlyleaf goes to seed, the obstinate seeds keep bringing the invasive back. Currently, we are waiting to get a report from Lycott, the lake management company that treats the lake, identifying the various weeds present in the lake.

**The Fauna**

The turtles are out looking for nesting sites. They leave the lake and look for sandy soil on which to lay their eggs. They have been sighted crossing Prospect Lake Road. If you want to help them across the road to safety, do so very carefully, as most are snappers. Be aware that dragging a turtle can be harmful to you or the turtle. Dragging can damage the carapace leaving the turtle vulnerable to infection. One of our neighbors has a nest in her lawn which she has carefully marked. Now we just wait until September when the little ones hatch and run for their lives back to the water before the predators get them.

According to an article by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, *Snapping turtles are nocturnal and spend most of the time underwater, lying on the bottom of the water body. Their dark-colored skin and moss-covered shell enables the turtles to lie in wait and ambush their prey. Usually docile in water, snapping turtles can be aggressive during the breeding season when they are found traveling across land. This is usually when most people encounter snapping turtles. If you find a snapping turtle in your yard, treat it with the respect it deserves.*

*Snapping turtles have powerful, sharp jaws. Keep children and pets away from the turtle until it has finished laying its eggs and has left the area.*

### **Fundraising**

Membership forms have been distributed. Membership fees are the backbone of our finances. We need everyone to help support the work of keeping the lake as a valuable asset for our community. If you want to join us in these efforts, contact any member of the Board listed below.

We are also getting ready for the annual tag sale. To make contributions, contact Marj (528-3726) or Genis (528-6957).

### **Dates to remember**

Annual Meeting! ! August 3, 2013

Annual Tag Sale! ! August 24, 2013

### **Meeting schedule:**

Meeting regularly. Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail. This is not official.

Archives Room - First Saturday 9-noon  
or by appointment

Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 12noon &  
by appointment

Council on Aging - Third Thursday of each month  
at 4pm. Other times as needed.

Board of Health - Monday- 8am to 1pm, Tuesday  
8:30am to 12pm & 12:30 to 2:30pm, Wednesday &  
Thursday 8am to 1pm. Meetings - Thursdays as posted  
9am to 11am

Board of Selectmen - Meetings every other Monday  
evenings 7pm. Office weekdays 7am to 3pm.

Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

Other times and inspections by appointment

Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth  
Thursdays 7:00pm

Finance Committee - Wednesdays 5:30pm January  
through April. Other times as needed.

Library - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 2-6pm &  
Saturday 9-12noon 413-528-1474

Planning Board - Second & Fourth Monday 7:30pm  
School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays 6pm  
Mt. Everett High School Library

Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm

Town Clerk - Every other Tuesday evenings 6pm-  
8pm, Tuesday mornings 9am to 12noon  
or by appointment

Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm,  
Saturday 8am to 3pm, Sunday 12noon to 4pm

Water Department - Office weekdays 8am to 2pm

Meetings second Thursday 4:30pm at Town Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed

To reach a board member or to leave a  
message please call the Town Hall 528-0182.

### **Business listings:**

In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in, or near, Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall.

Prospect Lake Park and Campground -

camping, swimming

413-528-4158 prospectlk@aol.com

[www.prospectlakepark.com](http://www.prospectlakepark.com)

Egremont residents receive a discount to access  
the beach.

The Silo B&B - guest accommodations

413-528-5195

The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B

1 Prospect Lake Road

413-528-2882

[www.innsweetwater.com](http://www.innsweetwater.com)

The Egremont Village Inn - Lodging

413-528-9580

John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant

413-528-3469

Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant-

Restaurant & Lodging

413-528-6200

[www.swisshutte.com](http://www.swisshutte.com)

Robin's Chair Caning - Chair caning and repairs.

Robin Walther

116 Egremont Plain Road

413-528-2537

[robinschaircaning@gmail.com](mailto:robinschaircaning@gmail.com)

Howard's Antiques - Antique Lighting & Restoration

413-528-1232

[www.howardsantiquelighting.com](http://www.howardsantiquelighting.com)

Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal  
polishing

413-528-3230

Home - Asian Antiques & Interior Objects

195 Hillsdale Road (Route 23)

413-528-5383

[www.homeasianantiques.com](http://www.homeasianantiques.com)

41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern furniture, antiques, collectibles, architectural and decorative objects.

413-528-0112

[www.41mainantiques.com](http://www.41mainantiques.com)

Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback Riding Lessons, summer programs

[www.bluerider.org](http://www.bluerider.org)

413-528-5299

Green River Arabians & Pintos -

Horse Boarding, lessons, judging.

413-528-2367 [arabpinto13@yahoo.com](mailto:arabpinto13@yahoo.com)

Indian Line Farm - Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) & Farmers Markets

413-528-8301

[www.indianlinefarm.com](http://www.indianlinefarm.com)

Ivory Pond Farm -

Llamas, Yarn and Woolens. Dancing Crane Rug Hooking Studio. Hooked rugs, lessons and supplies.

Tom & Liz Marino

413-528-9465

[www.lizmarinorughooking.com](http://www.lizmarinorughooking.com)

[Llamama@wildblue.net](mailto:Llamama@wildblue.net)

Turner Farms Maple Syrup - Phillips Road, open 7am to 7pm 7 days a week. 413-528-5710

B&S Gventer "Books & Ephemera" - Buy & Sell Books

[www.bookfairs.com](http://www.bookfairs.com)

413-528-2327

Elfi Six Shiatsu/Acutonics®, Bodywork

413-644-9979

[www.CosmicResonance.com](http://www.CosmicResonance.com)

Zorn Family Chiropractic-Chiropractor

44 Main Street, South Egremont

413-528-9654

[healingspiritdc@yahoo.com](mailto:healingspiritdc@yahoo.com)

Zorn Core Fitness -

Personal, Couples & Group Training

Cardio Room - \$25 per month Free 1 month cardio for Egremont residents

46 Main Street, South Egremont

413-528-1594

[www.zorncorefitness.com](http://www.zorncorefitness.com)

[zornari@gmail.com](mailto:zornari@gmail.com)

Yoga at Zorn Core Fitness, with Karin Beebe

Ashtanga Yoga & Gentle/Hatha Yoga

46 Main Street

413-528-0828

[kbyoga@gmail.com](mailto:kbyoga@gmail.com)

Divine Automotive - Automotive repair

413-528-8007

Old Egremont Country Store - groceries, beer, wine, liquor, newspapers, lottery, & much more

413-528-4796

Blueberry Lane Home Design - Interior decorating

413-528-9633

Closet Collection - clothing & household consignment shop

413-528-6236

Berkshire Veneer Company - wholesale/retail

wood veneer sales

413-644-9696

Toull Construction - Jobs large and small.

Lord St. Pierre

413-528-5548

"Jack of All Trades"-Handyman Services

Jack Buckley

413-528-1982

413-446-1982

Ron Brazie Jr - Full service property maintenance and management.

413-229-8204 or 413-717-2889

Catamount Ski Area - Skiing & ropes course

413-528-1262

[www.catamountski.com](http://www.catamountski.com)

Anita Schilling - Real Estate Listing & Sales

William Pitt Sotheby's

413-528-4192 or 413-626-1920

[anitaschilling@gmail.com](mailto:anitaschilling@gmail.com)

Florence F. Browner Real Estate - Full Service

90 Creamery Road

413-528-3266

[flobro@wildblue.net](mailto:flobro@wildblue.net)

Kenver Ltd - Winter Sports Equipment, Apparel & Accessories

39 Main Street

413-528-2330

[www.kenverltd.com](http://www.kenverltd.com)

Maple Leaf Art Gallery - Joan Mentzinger

154 Hillsdale Road, Route 23

The Agency Without Walls - Helen Krancer

Marketing Consulting and Copywriting That Get Results. 413-644-9700

[helen@agencywithoutwalls.com](mailto:helen@agencywithoutwalls.com)

Cyber Knight - Matthew Wall

PC repairs - Networking - Internet

413-528-5415

[matt@cyber-knight.net](mailto:matt@cyber-knight.net)

Dellea.biz Computer Services - Arthur Dellea

<http://www.dellea.biz>

413-528-1141

James Olmsted - Outdoor Services & Caretaking

Field mowing

413-528-0102

pager 413-261-2150

Berkshire Wildlife Solutions - Resolving conflicts

with nature. Eric F. Ives

Mass Problem Animal Control Agent

Consultation/Inspection, Capture, removal and  
exclusionary work.

413-528-9813 413-250-5094

Berkshire Preserves: Small Batch Homemade

Marmalade and Jams

Barbara Fields

413-528-2824

Brookside Quiltworks - Catherine Kane - fabric shop  
and quilt gallery. 2 Sheffield Road, Egremont

413-528-0445 [www.brooksidequiltworks.com](http://www.brooksidequiltworks.com)

Maple Shade Enterprises: Quilts and Sew much more

Sue Delmolino Ives

413-644-0229 [susandelmolino@yahoo.com](mailto:susandelmolino@yahoo.com)

Gregory Cherin photography

South Egremont 1-917-991-0553

[info@gregorycherin.com](mailto:info@gregorycherin.com)

[www.gregorycherin.com](http://www.gregorycherin.com)

Berkshire South Regional Community Center

15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington MA

413-528-2810 [www.berkshiresouth.org](http://www.berkshiresouth.org)

Non-profit community organization serving 17  
towns throughout the Southern Berkshires.

Providing a variety of educational,  
recreational and cultural programs for all ages  
- from early childhood to senior citizens - and  
partners with several local organizations.

Gogel & Gogel - Law Firm

Business law & litigation

40 Main Street

413-528-2698

[www.gogel-gogel.com](http://www.gogel-gogel.com)

Chloe Wosczyzna's travels: to view go to

[www.studleyofegremont.com](http://www.studleyofegremont.com)

House To House Hauling & Recycling

Trash hauling services and roll-off containers  
services.

413-528-0943



Support local businesses

*Dog Business*  
By Stanley Farnum

*His Majesty Sam, my old hound dog,  
decided it's time for his walk.*

*So he sat and gave me his Crown Prince Stare,  
knowing full well that I wouldn't dare  
to ignore or in anyway balk.*

*The command he was sending to rise from my chair  
for he had set before me his leash,  
and if I did not at once acknowledge that stare,  
further measures were there in his reach.*

*Sometimes he would climb up with a gleam in his eyes,  
put a cold wet nose in my face,  
knowing full well I would quickly arise,  
for he'd cheated and won the short race.*

*Then away we would go, down the side of the road,  
and though he is old how he'd strut,  
for he was going about his tasks for the day,  
wagging his tail and whole butt.*

*I suppose that he thinks as he moves slowly along,  
that he's making all the phone poles strong,  
For he dampens each one with lifted hind leg,  
I think he must carry inside a full keg,  
and I don't dare tell him he's wrong.*

*I praise him and enjoy his wide doggy smile  
and to show off his talent he stops,  
at one of the Speed Signs along our way,  
and thinks he has made me a fullfilled day,  
but I won't mention here what he drops.*

*Then finally we turn to go back home,  
His Majesty regally trotting.  
He's done his duty and enjoyed all events,  
and now he can sniff all the lovely ground scents  
and roll where something is rotting.*

*Then quickly I pull him along in the grass  
and he slides on his back with feet waving.  
It's time to remind him he's not quite as high  
as he tries to imply, he has to get back to behaving!*

*Well he knows it's all in a spirit of fun,  
and he gives me a big doggie grin.  
So I give him a hug, the fat little bug,  
and get a big sloppy kiss on the chin.*

*Then it's two old guys just strolling along,  
and happy to still be together.  
We play out these scenes day by day,  
wishing to go on forever.*

*Town of Egremont  
P.O. Box 368  
South Egremont MA 01258  
413-528-0182  
[www.egremont-ma.gov](http://www.egremont-ma.gov)  
[tegrement@yahoo.com](mailto:tegrement@yahoo.com)*

*Printed, on recycled paper, by the Selectmen's Office  
Staff as submitted by Town Departments.  
"The Town of Egremont is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer."*



**Board of Selectmen:**

Below is a synopsis of events that led to placing Egremont Police Chief Reena Bucknell on paid administrative leave at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen on February 19, 2013 and following that is a review of Egremont Police Management practices.

**There will be a hearing on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Egremont Town Hall with Chief Bucknell to address the issues of the Police Officers, the Board of Selectmen and Community, as well as the many management and fiscal problems identified by Pomeroy Resources, Inc. This hearing was rescheduled to the 8<sup>th</sup> of July at the request of Chief Bucknell's attorney.** Please note: It is the option and right of Chief Bucknell to determine if the July 8 meeting is an open or closed meeting.

**Important: The information detailed below is not all inclusive nor complete, but does give the reader some idea as to the degree of concern and extent of issues that the Board of Selectmen have been able to identify. All information provided below can be verified either through meeting minutes and/or recordings, the "Management Study of the Egremont Massachusetts Police Department" (Pomeroy Report) available at the Town Hall, Berkshire Community College, and Egremont Police Officer's Union (Teamster's Local 404) memo dated 2/16/2013 with supporting documents.**

**Egremont Police Department**

- I. February 19, 2013 in response to a vote of "no confidence" by the entire Egremont rank and file police officers, the Selectboard voted to place Chief Reena Bucknell on administrative leave, with pay, pending an investigation. The complaints, as presented, and in aggregate could be construed to present a hostile working environment that was not in the best interest of good law enforcement and the safety of the residents of the Town of Egremont.
- II. March 4<sup>th</sup>, after search and solicitation of quotations, the Board of Selectmen voted to hire Pomeroy Resources, Inc. Plymouth MA to perform an Operations/Management Study of the Egremont Police Department.

**a. Scope:**

- Determine Optimal Organizational Structure for the Department
- Review of Police Allocation and

Deployment

- Make Recommendations to Improve Efficiency of the Department

**a. Focus:**

- Improve administrative, management, and service delivery aspects of the Egremont Police department.
- Identify operational issues, management/labot issues and equipment/technology requirements.
- Provide recommendations including a range of alternatives for addressing the management needs and public safety requirements of the Town of Egremont.

**I. Consultant background and qualifications:**

- a. Robert Pomeroy, the principal of Pomeroy Resources, Ltd., is a retired Chief of Police of Plymouth, MA where he served as Police Chief for 16 years. Chief Pomeroy holds a BS/BA History, MS Criminal Justice Administration, JD. Admitted to practice law in MA, US District Court of MA, the U.S. 1st Circuit Court of Appeals, and the US Supreme Court.

II. Important to Note: It appears that Chief Reena Bucknell holds two full time positions, one as the Chief of Police of the Town of Egremont, and as Professor of Criminal Justice and Program Advisor for the Criminal Justice Program at Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield, MA.

**Findings of Pomeroy Resources, Ltd.****I. Administrative Offices**

- a. The Chief maintained what was described by others as an office on the second floor of the building.
  - i. No officer that was interviewed had ever been inside this room.
  - ii. The **condition** of the room when viewed by the consultants, one word describes it best-**"shocking."**
  - iii. The desks were covered in a mound of disorganized documents.
  - iv. The desk chair was piled high with various items.
  - v. The room was **packed with equipment and supplies in**

- quantities far in excess** of the needs of the department.
- vi. **A narrow path was the only available means to navigate the room.**
  - vii. The consultants observed piles of new police uniforms and equipment.
  - viii. The room contained at least five new police portable radios, new desktop computers, a new laptop computer, and cabinets filled with supplies.
  - ix. There were **several new digital cameras**, all new and unopened.
  - x. There was a brand new pair of binoculars, in the box and unopened.
  - xi. Numerous cans of pepper spray that will eventually have to be discarded due to expiration dates, and several police raincoats and dozens of new police patches.
  - xii. Five brand new, in the box, police pistols. We were later informed that records indicated that these firearms were purchased in 2010.
  - xiii. An unsecured firearm was found on top of a cabinet with loose rounds of ammunition lying alongside.
  - xiv. In its current condition, this room absolutely could not be utilized as an office to perform work.
- b. Across the hall, another room to which officers had not been inside, was a combination "storage room" and "evidence room."
- i. This room was in a similar state as the Chiefs "office."
  - ii. Gun storage cabinets were found open with several police handguns and a police shotgun in unlocked gun storage lockers.
  - iii. Evidence and property labeled from over twenty years ago was readily visible.
  - iv. A large metal cabinet was unlocked and was found to contain evidence intermingled

with stored items.

- v. Evidence containing cash was in one envelope.
- vi. Drug evidence was located on shelves alongside department property.
- vii. Again, new police equipment such as numerous gun cleaning kits, new expensive flashlights, and stacks upon stacks of office supplies were located.
- viii. Prior to the consultant's arrival, Officer Pilone and Officer Carlson located 20,000 rounds of police handgun ammunition in the room. **Due to the potential fire hazard**, the ammunition had been moved elsewhere prior to the arrival of the consultants. **This amount of ammunition is far more than this department could possibly use in a reasonable period of time - likely 10 or more times the amount of ammunition that 8 police officers would use in yearly firearms qualifications.**

## II. Vehicles

- a. The police fleet consists of three vehicles: 2008 Ford Crown Victoria with 82,000 miles; 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe with 38,000 miles; 2013 Ford Explorer with 5000 miles
- b. The vehicles were clean and in good order.
- c. Officers stated consistently that the vehicles, maintained by local private repair facilities, were in very good condition and well maintained.
- d. One patrol vehicle used primarily for patrol was equipped with a police shotgun secured with a standard police style electric lock.
  - i. The consultant inspected the weapon and ammunition and found that the shotgun was loaded exclusively with shotgun slug ammunition
  - ii. Sole use of shotgun slugs peculiar.
  - iii. Generally, police shotguns are

loaded with buckshot which is the preferred ammunition for close quarters police use.

- iv. Some police agencies stagger the loaded ammunition and alternate between buckshot and rifled slugs. The primary advantage of buckshot is the spread pattern of the shot, whereas a slug requires more precise aiming.
- v. The consultants have not previously encountered the sole use of slugs in a police shotgun.
- vi. Most of the officers, however, have not undergone shotgun training or qualification.
- vii. One former officer stated embarrassingly that he did not even know how to unlock the shotgun from the rack until shown by a police officer from a neighboring community.

### III. CJIS Computer (Criminal Justice Information System)

- a. The CJIS computer system was inoperable, and had been inoperable for several months.
  - i. The consensus of opinion is that the system has been inoperable for approximately five months.
  - ii. Consequently, police officers in Egremont must call the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office every time they need to make a CJIS inquiry.
- b. The inoperability of the CJIS system in most any police department would be considered a critical issue requiring immediate resolution.

### IV. Records Management System

- a. The Police department currently uses a police records management system (RMS) called *Precinct Connection 1.0* which is a commercially available software package. The consultants are not familiar with this particular software.
- b. The Department furnished the consultants with yearly crime statistics from the annual report. It was notable that the Department could not provide a NIBRS

(National Incident Based Reporting System) report even though *Precinct Connection 1.0* advertises that the product includes NIBRS functionality.

- i. Regardless, if a NIBRS report is not compiled by a Department, the Department is unable to transmit the information to the national database.
- ii. Many grant conditions require that an agency submit NIBRS on a yearly basis in order to maintain grant eligibility.

The other benefits of participating in the NIBRS are:

- iii. The NIBRS can furnish information on nearly every major criminal justice issue facing law enforcement today, including terrorism, white collar crime, weapons offenses missing children where criminality is involved, drug/narcotics offenses, drug involvement in all offenses, hate crimes, spousal abuse, abuse of the elderly, child abuse, domestic violence, juvenile crime/gangs, parental abduction, organized crime, pornography/child pornography, driving under the influence, and alcohol-related offenses.
- c. The consultants discovered that the Police Department purchased a new police record management software system called IMC. IMC is well known to the consultants.
  - i. IMC is a police records management system with excellent functionality including various modules for performing a number of police management asks.
  - ii. The IMC software is one of a few systems in use by numerous police departments in Massachusetts.
- d. Note: According to information provided by IMC to the police department as a result of this consultant's inquiry, it was learned that the Department purchased the IMC software in 2006 however, for reasons

**that are unclear at this time, the IMC software has never been installed in the Department.**

- i. IMC charges a yearly support fee. IMC reports that the Egremont Police Department has paid yearly software support fees in the following amounts: 2008 - \$6,900; 2009 - \$7,233; 2010 - \$7,510; 2011 - \$7,705 **Total- \$29,348**
- e. Again, it is not clear at this point why the Police Department purchased a police record management system that has never been installed in seven years, yet the Department continued to pay yearly software support fees. When questioned, Chief Bucknell stated that she was uncertain whether or not the Town actually paid for the yearly support fees as described by IMC. The Chief stated that she forwarded the support fee invoices along as they are paid from the Town's Computer Expense budget. Chief Bucknell advised the consultants that after the purchase of IMC, she and her secretary attended IMC training. The Town advised that the payments to IMC have indeed been made each year.

The above is a brief outline of the findings of Pomeroy Resources. There are other findings that Egremont Residents may review by asking for an electronic copy of the report. It is a public document and is available for review.